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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015

She makes the cut

Lakeshore grad wins Chopped Canada.
Page 2

Sticky streets

This is actually a good
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Page 6

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Evergreen to grow downtown



GREG
FURWINGER/
QMI AGENCY
NAGARA
Laura
O'Connell
is working
towards a
September
opening of
Evergreen
Academy,
a private
school for
students
in grades 1
through 6.
See story
on page 2.



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UPFRONT

■ **PORT COLBORNE:** Evergreen Academy aims for smaller class sizes, more outdoor teaching; open house Saturday

Private elementary school to open

GREG FURNINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

Laura O'Connell believes children's learning environments need more of, well, the environment.

That's why she's starting a private elementary school in Port Colborne. It will be for children in grades 1 through 6, eventually to expand to Grade 8.

Evergreen Academy will teach Ontario's public education curriculum through small class sizes and individualized programming, and will be set up to allow for independent study with an additional emphasis on science and the environment.

That's where the school's name is derived from, says the 40-year-old mom and teacher, noting her school is not affiliated with a same-named private learning institution in the

U.S.

"I am hoping that the students will do something for ever green in their lives."

O'Connell, who holds degrees in biology and education from Brock University, says arts and physical education are also part of the school's well-rounded programming.

Evergreen's school year will begin in September. Registrations will be accepted until May 2.

But it's not cheap.

Basic tuition starts at \$11,000 for a regular school day program, although the school will help parents find solutions to make it more affordable, such as by way of government assistance.

There will be regular contact between parents and the school, and individual student programming will



be tailored through their discussions.

Classes will run 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with time set aside for each student to follow personalized courses of study in areas of interest and need.

Evergreen is also offering extended learning programs before and after school, as well as during the summer months. The school will begin offering kids' clubs this April.

It will focus on active, hands-on learning with less time spent at desks than in a traditional class setting and more time spent actively engaged in learning, which will be taken outdoors as much as possible.

Evergreen Academy is designed both for gifted students and "struggling learners," and not necessarily meaning those with academic troubles.

The aim is to cap class sizes at 10 students per teacher. There will be no school uniform.

Detailed explanations of the school — its motto is Grow With Us — and how it will operate are at evergreen-academy.ca.

O'Connell is an Ontario certified teacher who's been working and volunteering in elementary classrooms since

2009, qualified to teach at all elementary levels. Most recently, she was an occasional teacher for District School Board of Niagara.

"By having smaller class sizes, I have the opportunity to better meet the needs of individual students," she says.

O'Connell has coached baseball and volleyball teams, performed private tutoring, taught Sunday school classes and operated and established Camp Wild, which used to be run during schools' March break and summer months for children from Port Colborne and Wainfleet.

Her school, which will also be staffed with a teacher's assistant, is located in the former Helen Kinnear Children's Centre in the Presbyterian church at the corner of Charlotte and Elm Sts. A

EVERGREEN ACADEMY INC.

■ www.evergreenacademy.ca

■ evergreenacademy@icloud.com

■ 289-273-2283

■ Open house this Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
■ In the Presbyterian church at 176 Elm St. Port Colborne (enter from Charlotte St.)

■ The open house will feature free activities for children, snacks served

■ Classes start in September

■ Registration runs to May 2

grand opening open house will be held this Saturday.

She says 10 to 15 students this September would be a good start; 30 "would be great to start."

■ **TELEVISION:** Erin Smith wins \$10,000 culinary stake

Niagara native wins Chopped Canada

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

The creative use of frogs legs, chesscake and green tea powder all helped Erin Smith cook her way to victory on *Chopped Canada*.

The 28-year-old Port Colborne native beat out three fellow chefs to claim the \$10,000 prize during a

March episode of the popular Food Network Canada television show.

Each episode of the high-stakes culinary competition contains three rounds during which competitors are surprised with a series of mystery baskets containing ingredients they must use to create an appetizer, entree and dessert.

Smith's dishes included porko-crusted frog legs with a radicchio salad, a grilled T-bone steak with celeriac chesscake puree and a cherry-whisky glaze, and a matcha and elderflower liqueur ice cream with a Russian mustard caramel sauce.

Smith believes it was her attention to detail, as well as

her plate presentation that helped her clinch the win.

"I just focused on simple, clean cooking," said the sous chef, who also credits her win to the experience she's gained over the past eight years working at Mark McEwan's Bymark Restaurant in Toronto.

"I work in a fast-paced, high-pressure environment every day. That kept me calm while I was there."

As for the prize money, Smith paid off her student loans and invested the rest in a registered education

savings plan for her one-year-old son.

She jokes her plans for the funds may not be the most exciting, but she's happy to be able to put aside some money for Conon's education.

While Smith, a Lakeshore Catholic High School grad, doesn't have an additional TV appearances on her plate at the moment, it's definitely something she would like to do again.

"I absolutely would again. I like to push myself out of my comfort zone."

Smith had anticipated watching the episode with a small group of friends. Little did she know husband Brantford would plan a surprise 30-person affair that only added to the excitement of the evening.

She made sure to offer no hints of the show's results, leaving everyone on the edge of their seats until the final few minutes of the program.

"Everyone was anxious and excited," she said.

"There was an uproar at the end."

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■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

Faith, doubt and humility

THOMAS ARTH
Faith Lutheran Church

About a month-and-a-half ago President Obama made a speech at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. Following that speech he was slammed by numerous critics and even accused of not being a Christian.

The reason for this criticism, it seems, was that he dared to suggest that Christian history has come skeletons in the closet that don't point us in any better a light than Muslim groups today such as ISIS/ISIL.

He made mention of the Crusades and the Inquisition centuries ago and slavery and Jim Crow more recently, when terrible deeds were committed and/or justified in the name of Christ. Some objected and again tried to justify some of those acts or excuse them or claim that they're not examples of "true" Christianity.

But I think that was exactly President Obama's point. In different parts of the world today there is sectarian violence and warfare,

Muslims and Christians murdering each other in parts of Africa, anti-Semitism on the rise again in parts of Europe, people of faith being targeted by people of other faiths in India simply due to their heritage and their beliefs. So often these are perpetrated in the name of religion.

The problem is when people of any religion become so confident and so certain of their own faith and belief and position that they set aside all humility. They believe they are justified in whatever they do and that it is sanctioned by God. They believe that they know the ultimate truth and that God is on their side alone.

The fact is that every major religion has, at times, had extremist elements that have misused or misinterpreted their sacred texts. It's not hard to create God in our own image, to believe that God thinks like we do and hates who we hate.

I think that maybe we need to temper any tendencies toward extremism with a healthy dose of humility and admit to our occasional (or frequent) doubts. One example from our Christian scriptures that speaks to humility

says, "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you that I speak of myself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned" (Romans 12:3).

In another passage a man came to Jesus asking for healing for his son. Jesus told him, "All things can be done for the one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24-24).

As a Christian I believe that Jesus Christ is the clearest and best revelation of what God is like. But I don't pretend to know all there is to know or think that I've got a lock on just what God's will is in every situation. I'll admit that I have my moments when I think my faith or even my brand of Christianity is superior to others. But then I have to admit and confess that any faith that I do have is a gift from God and not something I can manufacture. And any faith that I have is inevitably going to be mixed with some doubt. Nobody's got it all together all of the time.

Last fall when a couple of Canadian

soldiers were killed in Quebec and Ottawa by Muslim extremists, I wrote to the two mosques that I know of in Niagara. I said that in the aftermath of those attacks there's a chance they could be the targets of prejudice, anger, and hate but that nothing like that would be preached from my pulpit. My prayers were that we could all move forward in peace. Their replies talked about the dangers of extremism, sympathy for the victims, and the hope that all faith communities could build bridges and strengthen bonds of friendship and understanding.

When Jesus talked about loving one's neighbour he told a story about people with religious differences caring for each other (the Good Samaritan). The Christian scriptures certainly call us to witness to our faith. One of the best ways to do that, it would seem to me, would be to live a life of love for all people regardless of who they are or how they worship or don't worship, what they believe or don't believe.

May we find humility, live in the tension of faith and doubt, and love one another.

Shipwrecks — Arthur M. Anderson

SKIP GILLHAM
For QMI Agency Niagara

This has been a winter to forget for the crew of the American self-unloading bulk carrier *Arthur M. Anderson*.

For this 'shipwreck', the ship departed Chicago for Conneaut, Ohio, on Feb. 5 but, after spending the better part of two weeks locked in the ice on Lake Erie, the vessel was finally freed by the Canadian Coast Guard vessel *Griffin*. But entrance to Conneaut was impossible due to the ridges of ice so the *Arthur M. Anderson* turned around and headed back to Lake Michigan.

The ship made it to Detroit with ice breaker assistance and joined a convoy of tankers for the journey up the Detroit River, across Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River. They still faced a considerable challenge on Lake

Huron and spent about two days in the Straits of Mackinac before reaching its lay-up berth at Sturgeon Bay, WI. The ship was expected there on March 4.

This vessel used to be a Welland Canal trader. It was built at Lorain, Ohio, in 1952 and first served in the United States Steel fleet. During the 1960s it carried grain to storage elevators on the St. Lawrence River before returning with iron ore. The ship was lengthened in 1975 and, since then, has only come as far as Port Colborne as it is now too long for the remaining locks of the local waterway.

Rebuilt as a self-unloader in 1981-82, the *Arthur M. Anderson* is still an excellent carrier and is active on the upper four Great Lakes in the ore, stone and coal trades. It is also remembered as the last ship to be in contact with the ill-fated *Edmund Fitzgerald* before the latter was lost with all hands on Nov. 10, 1975.



Arthur M. Anderson pictured below Welland Canal Lock 3 in 1965.

HAROLD PHOTO

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LOCAL NEWS

■ PAN AM GAMES

Games will be a transformational event: CEO

ALISON LANGLEY
QMI Agency Niagara

The upcoming Pan Am/Parapan Am Games venues are an investment in Canadian youth.

That was the message Saad Rafi, chief executive officer of Toronto2015, which is organizing the summer games, brought to the table March 6 at the 16th annual National Engineering Month luncheon at Club Italia in Niagara Falls.

Athletes will compete at 30 different venues — a combination of new and existing facilities — during the Games

in July and August.

Most venues are multi-use facilities, Rafi said, which will allow children "to play, to be active and live a healthy lifestyle" once the Games wrap up.

"These venues will say to young people that 'We built these places for you, for your health, your happiness, your growth and character.'"

"We need our youth. We need them to be at their best, so they can build a better future."

Rafi said anticipation is building for the Games which will see more than 10,000 athletes, coaches and officials

from 41 countries participate in 52 sports.

Welland International Flatwater Centre will host the canoe and kayak sprint events and Henley Island in St. Catharines will host the rowing events.

It will be the largest international multi-sport event ever hosted in Canada.

"We expect 1.4 million tickets will be sold and the Games will be broadcast across the world to 300 million households."

He encouraged the audience to support the Games in order to make it a "historic success."

THE GAMES

Pan Am Games
July 10 to 26
Parapan Am Games
Aug. 7 to 15

"The Games will be a truly transformational event for our region, our communities and our country," he said.

More than 375 engineers attended the event which was sponsored by local chapters of the Professional Engineers of Ontario, the Ontario Association of Engineering Technicians and Technologists, Con-

sultant Engineers of Ontario and the Ontario Public Works Association.

Proceeds from the luncheon supported three scholarships for high school students entering engineering-related studies, said Erik Nickel, co-chairman of the Niagara Engineering Month organizing committee.

During the month of March, National Engineering Month events are held across the country.

Locally, the Professional Engineers of Ontario will host a design/build competition for Grades 11 and 12 students at Niagara College.



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LOCAL NEWS

■ PLANNING

Aim for the sticky streets

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

The term 'sticky streets' sounds like a problem that

needs to be fixed. But in active transportation circles, sticky streets are something municipalities and

downtown businesses are striving for.

"The sticky street is somewhere you can park and literally spend half a day shopping and going to cafes and restaurants," said Hamilton city councillor Matthew Green, who was one of the speakers at the Niagara Active Transportation Summit held March 5 in St. Catharines.

"The big box model is a come-and-go model. You might travel to three stores and not walk once."

More than 200 people attended the summit to discuss ways to make Niagara more friendly to cyclists and walkers.

"In our case, the focus is really on changing policy ... to support healthy communities," said Niagara Region health promoter Jackie Gervais, one of the event's organizers.

The summit was funded both through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the publicly funded Venture Niagara, which Gervais said is a good sign

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Town of Grimsby (Bronze)
City of St. Catharines (Bronze)
City of Thorold (Bronze)
City of Welland (Bronze)
City of Niagara Falls (Honourable Mention)

in itself.

"We see this as a commitment from the government to make changes to the policies so that people can have the infrastructure to support walking and cycling as an everyday activity."

"We need to move away from the idea that we just want to have recreational cycling and walking. This is for every day — for getting to work and school," she said.

Green, who owns a fitness studio in downtown Hamilton, said the sticky streets model is something all municipalities should be aiming for

because it encourages a more active lifestyle and helps area businesses.

"Moving people as fast as you can through a retail district is not conducive to building and supporting those small businesses," he said.

Creating sticky streets starts with building roads that encourage active transportation, Gervais said. Niagara Region has created active transportation policies that include things like bike lanes, sidewalks and good lighting, but she said it's up to the municipalities to use them when building or upgrading roads.

In Pelham, the only municipality in Niagara to be officially designated as being both bikeable and walkable, those guidelines will soon become the rule.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said the town's 30-year-old engineering guidelines are being changed "so that the starting point is active transportation."

"We're changing the policy so that it's all designed with that as a minimum standard,

NIAGARA'S WALKABLE COMMUNITIES

www.walkfriendly.ca
Town of Pelham (Bronze)

as opposed to a special standard," he said.

Augustyn said the massive new east Fonthill development, which will see housing, businesses, a community centre and medical facilities built in the area of Hwy. 20 and Rice Rd., is a clean slate for designing an active community.

"It doesn't happen often in communities," he said Thursday, the day after the town was given a design award for its plans for the east Fonthill area, which will include separated bike and walking trails, bike lanes and sidewalks.

"There are 97 ways to get this wrong and two or three to get it right. But we're hopeful this award is saying we're on the right path," Augustyn said.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ DOG BEING ADDED TO NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE CANINE UNIT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE EUTHANIZED

A new leash on life

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

To look at Kali now, you would never guess she was given a death sentence and rescued with only hours to live.

Unwanted by the family that owned her, a humane society in Toronto couldn't find a suitable home for the energetic Belgian malinois and planned to put her down.

But in a last-ditch effort to save her, the shelter contacted a Niagara-on-the-Lake dog rescuer who took Kali in and then recommended her for service to the Niagara Regional Police canine unit.

The NRP was already in the midst of trying to find a new explosives-detection dog for soon-to-be retired police service dog (PSD) Elsie. Two-year-old Kali had exactly the traits the canine unit was looking for.

"(The rescuer) took her in not thinking this could be a future police dog. We almost picked another dog, and then she said 'look at this one,'" said NRP Const. Rob Kroon, who was picked to be Kali's partner.

"Some dogs aren't made to be police dogs. Their drive has to be through the roof. The only thing they do it for is their toy. It's almost beyond motivation.

"All dogs have that prey drive, but a police dog has to be above and beyond that. They want to go and go and go," he said.

Sgt. Scott Johnstone, who heads up the canine unit, said German shepherd and Belgian malinois breeds are ideal because of their versatility.

"The reason we use them is that like a decahete, they can do a number of things very well. They don't specialize in one area," he said.

"These dogs have a high desire to please, so they're very loyal and they love to work. They thrive on working and then getting the toy



PHOTOS BY DAN DAKIN/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Niagara Regional Police Const. Rob Kroon works with Kali, a two-year-old Belgian malinois who is being trained as the service's newest explosives detection dog. Kali was slated to be put down before she was recruited by the NRP.

and praise."

Kroon has worked in the canine unit for two and a half years with PSD K, a drug-sniffing Belgian malinois.

He's now working with both dogs, who will live with his family and their three pet dogs in Fort Erie. The two police dogs are considered workers, however, so they're kept at a distance from the kids and other dogs, which keeps them from getting to domesticated. It's the same reason police typically don't let the general public pet the service dogs.

"You want to socialize them, but it's a balance.

If you socialize them too much, they become a pet," Kroon said.

Since getting Kali on Nov. 6, 2014, Kroon has been training his new recruit to sniff out explosives.

"The only thing she's going to know is explosives detection," he said.

Unlike drug-sniffing dogs, which scratch on a surface they think may contain narcotics, bomb dogs are taught to immediately sit down when they identify the scent from a suspicious package.

"You obviously don't want them to scratch at it. With explosive dogs we call it a

passive indication," Kroon said.

Kali is expected to be certified in the next couple of weeks and will then be put into service. One of the big assignments this year will be in the summer when security is ramped up for Pan Am Games events being held in Welland and St. Catharines.

Kroon is able to have two PSDs because they serve two different roles: K for tracking and narcotics detection, and Kali for explosives work.

They both travel with Kroon in his marked police truck anytime he's working.



"They get along well," he said.

When they're not on active calls, they're constantly training.

"The training never stops. The more training you have, the better," he said.

Ultimately, Kali's ability to sniff out explosives all comes down to her wanting to play.

"The only reason she does it is to get that ball," said Kroon. "She doesn't know she's smelling C4 or smokeless powder or TNT. But she smells it knowing if she sits, she gets her ball. It's all association."

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LOCAL NEWS

■ NIAGARA COMMUNITY OBSERVATORY



DON FRASER/WE AGENCY NIAGARA

Catherine Hands from Brock University speaks at the launch of the Barriers to Post Secondary Education report by Brock's Niagara Community Observatory. The event took place Wednesday at the Welland YMCA.

Engage kids early about post-secondary schooling

DON FRASER
QMI Agency Niagara

Higher education has never been more crucial to success in work. Job postings routinely require a college program or a university degree.

But in Niagara only 18% of residents ages 25 to 64 have a university degree, compared to 29% in Ontario.

In the region, 41% of the population in that age group has no post-secondary credentials — a figure much higher than the provincial and national averages.

Meanwhile, research has shown students start to make decisions about post-secondary schooling at a surprisingly age.

"Research is showing children start to think about post-secondary when they're really quite young," said Kate Cassidy, Brock University's director of community learning and Youth University. "They can be highly influenced by their parents, friends and community beliefs."

"Sometimes there's a lack of information, bias or misconception toward certain things. They might also be getting a message ... a different path might be better."

Last week, Brock's Niagara Community Observatory released a study exploring factors that influence people in Niagara to pursue — or not — post-secondary education.

The study used interviews and focus groups with Niagarans to find common themes about the barriers.

It points to social relationships, a sense of belonging and acceptance as laying the foundation for post-secondary aspirations.

A lack of clear understanding about career options, or a perception that they are limited, was another theme.

Challenges in selecting academic and applied courses for high school at a young age and a lack of post-secondary

information were other factors the report pointed to.

The study also notes people with higher education tend to live longer, are healthier, earn more and participate more actively in their communities.

At a Welland YMCA gathering, Cassidy joined a panel and question-and-answer session held to accompany the report's release.

As report author, Cassidy said her study also showed certain segments of the population are underrepresented in post-secondary institutions. Those include people with disabilities, aboriginals, rural and lower-income residents and people without parents.

"I have found that parental education is the single most important determinant of the level of education of the children," she added.

She said research also shows academically "dividing students early (in Grade 9) tends to decrease achievement for those who may be struggling."

Catherine Hands, who teaches at Brock's faculty of education, was another one of the four presenters and she also spoke of the importance of encouraging "stick-to-it-ness" in education with young people.

Messages about the importance of going to school and completing it come from the family, schools and community, she said.

"Students need to see themselves reflected in the experiences of the educators and students around them," she said.

Those who "don't see themselves reflected in the curriculum ... and experiences or cultural diversity within the school are less likely to be engaged," she said.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **AMANDA TODD:** Mother of online bullying victim calls for action in St. Catharines

A cry for help on cue cards

DON FRASER
QMI Agency Niagara

Amanda Todd was bullied by bullying. Terrible months of it.

It was so bad, the Port Coultland, B.C. teen suffered severe social anxiety and spent two months alone in her bedroom.

There, she prepared a YouTube video of her experience of being blackmailed and

harassed for two years.

The video went viral and was witnessed and reported on around the globe, sparking a worldwide anti-bullying movement.

And it all started with a youthful indiscretion with an online sexual predator that others saw through the Internet.

"Amanda was making that video I did not know about until she posted it on Sept. 7, 2012," said her mother, Carol Todd,

who spoke in St. Catharines March 2.

She was deeply concerned about Amanda being targeted online, but her daughter assured her that her full face was not visible in the online image.

And besides, the teen pointed out, other girls are called Amanda Todd too.

"The very next day, she came downstairs after two months and said 'Mom, I want to go

out, get my hair done... I want to have friends over'."

Then Amanda told her mom: "I can do this now, my story is out there, the haters will be haters and I don't care any more." Todd told an anti-bullying seminar group of about 150 at Denis Morris Secondary School.

Amanda, just 15, ended her life the following month.

Her famous video circulated worldwide. In it, she used flash cards to relay her experience.

It garnered millions of hits and sparked an international debate about cyberbullying and online cyber-safety.

It also spurred legislation in Canada and elsewhere to combat that problem and related issues, like texting sexually explicit pictures and having them transmitted widely.

Todd, a special needs student, used multimedia as part of her anti-bullying presentation co-hosted by Niagara Catholic District School Board and Niagara Regional Police.

She made a presentation the next night at Notre Dame College School in Welland.

Todd's talk focused on the devastating effects of cyberbullying.

She stressed the need for parents to be aware of young people engaging in dangerous online behaviour.

"I never knew. I wish I had known more, I thought I had open discussion with my daughter," said Todd, adding she had blunt talks with her kids about the perils of online communication.

As one solution, she suggested kids have their online usernames and passwords in a sealed envelope. It would be available to their parents, and not be opened unless serious trouble arose and adults needed to take charge.

"Kids, we trust you," she said. "But as soon as you break that trust, it's fair game and we can (review) your social media."

Parents also need to be mindful of all mobile devices and the destructive online communication that can happen.

They must remind children that

when a sexual image or hateful message is sent, the Internet is permanent. The content stays forever.

Every child should also have a few trusted adults to help them if such trouble arises, she added.

Adults should also be mindful of depression-related changes in young people like sleep disturbances, drastic mood changes and the loss of friends. She also spread a message of kindness and compassion — the opposite of bullying.

Todd said if such attitudes are spread by young people and the adults who influence them, change will happen.

"Amanda started and wanted a legacy," her mom said.

"She wanted us all to continue, and we can't do it unless we do it together. The changes are small now, but in 10 years you will see a difference."

Laurissa Loch, 14, a Denis Morris student, said the Todd talk would make her try to stop bullying if she witnesses it.

"We should teach younger kids not to bully," she said. "We should share this with each other."

Aidan Atkins, 11, was impressed that both Todd, mom and daughter, had the courage to speak out.

"She was able to tell her story, and most kids would probably keep it to themselves," said the student from St. George elementary school in Crystal Beach.

"There's the fact she was able to realize in the end that she needed help, and doesn't want that to happen to anyone else."

don.fraser@qmi.com
Twitter: @don_standard

LEARN MORE

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■ ARCHITECTURE

Awards recognize Niagara's inspired designs

BOB TYMCZYSHYN
QMI Agency Niagara

A modern vision of a gathering place won recognition for local architectural firm Quartek Group at the 10th annual Niagara Community Design Awards.

The company took home two awards from nine categories that were recognized last week in the ballroom of the Stone Mill Inn in St. Catharines.

"As a local firm it's important to be recognized for local work," said Quartek director of architecture Norman Ocampo.

The firm won for small scale project for a cardiac diagnostic clinic in Niagara Falls, and for the Parks Canada Agora on the Commons, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, in the architecture-small budget category.

"The original requirement (of Agora) was for a covered picnic area but we thought there would be an opportunity there to express something architecturally," said Ocampo. "Agora was two years in the making."

The firm addressed Parks Canada's stated requirement but took the project another step.

"There's an opportunity here, here's what we think the larger picture would be for this site. So they took it back and somebody at the higher levels of Parks Canada championed it."

"We were able to move from a very utilitarian picnic shelter to something we could call architecture for this very important site," said Ocampo.

"We're all subject to restraints in terms of budgets and clients expectation, scheduling."

"The other side of architecture is that creative side, the opportunity to be expressive to engage the public's imagination and to create something that potentially can bring the community together."

Nine professionals in the design, architecture and estate fields toured nominated sites in order to assess all the projects.

Continued on next page

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LOCAL NEWS

■ ARCHITECTURE

Awards recognize Niagara's inspired designs

From previous page

"The (awards) recognize community design, urban planning, urban design and architecture," said Terri Donia, project manager of planning and development services for Niagara Region.

"These last 10 years have been a huge transformation in Niagara regarding interest and understanding of how communities can transform, by redeveloping

things or building infill sites," Donia said.

"It can be a catalyst for change in a downtown. It's remarkable indicator how great things can happen with something as simple as changing the facade of a building. Good design offers a best practice for someone else."

bob.tymczyzyk@summedia.ca

Twitter: @bobtym

WINNERS

- Small Scale Project: Cardiac Diagnostic Clinic, Niagara Falls.
- Large Scale Project: Meridian Centre, St. Catharines.
- Public Realm Improvement: Ridgeway Village Square, Fort Erie.
- Architecture-Small Budget: Parks Canada Agora on the Commons, Niagara-On-the-Lake.
- Sustainability: 235 Fitch St. Seniors

- Residence, east building, Welland.
- Facade Improvement: The Uphouse, St. Catharines.
- Adaptive Re-Use: Station 1 Coffeehouse, Grimsby.
- Brownfield: Lakemount Worship Centre, Grimsby.
- Policy and Plans: East Fonthill secondary plan and urban design guides, Pelham.



BOB TYMCZYZYK/
QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Winners of the Niagara Community Design Awards were recognized Wed. March 5 at Old Stone Mill ballroom in St. Catharines.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **ANIMAL WELFARE:** Mastiff weighed only 44 pounds

Social media helps find owner of emaciated dog

KAREN WALTER
QMI Agency Niagara

The owner of an emaciated dog found in north St. Catharines last Wednesday night was tracked down after tips poured in from social media.

The female dog, which recently nursed puppies, was picked up by Lincoln County Humane Society after it was reported running at large near Niagara and Scott Sts.

The French Mastiff cross-breed weighed 44 pounds, or 20 kg, nearly half a normal healthy weight, said executive director Kevin Strooband.

"She couldn't have continued like this," he said, explaining dogs lose weight during nursing, but not that much weight.

The dog was treated by a local veterinarian who determined through blood tests it was not suffering a health issue that would cause it to

lose weight.

Strooband said it appears the dog's thinness was caused by a lack of food or eating lower quality food. Her prognosis for recovery is good.

The humane society asked the public to help locate the owner the next morning through Twitter, Facebook and through the media.

Strooband said there was an immediate response, with 25 tips that led to the identification of the owner within hours.

The dog, whose name is Minnie, escaped from a yard near the area where she was found. The owner has surrendered her to the humane society.

Strooband said it will take a few weeks to bring Minnie to full health before she is available for adoption.

Part of the humane society's investigation involves determining the welfare of the dog's puppies, who remain with the owner.



PHOTOS FROM LINCOLN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

An emaciated dog was picked up by the Lincoln County Humane Society on March 4.

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LOCAL NEWS

Gearing up for Merrittville racing season



CHUCK FURVINGER/QUI AGENCY NAGARA

To get race fans revved up for the 2015 season at Merrittville Speedway, a number of cars will be on display inside Welland's Seaway Mall until Friday. The race season starts April 25. Photo taken on Saturday in Welland.

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■ INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Longtime politician Hazel McCallion shares her story at an International Women's Day celebration Friday at the Americana Resort in Niagara Falls.

McCallion: Women are Canada's next leaders

JOHN LAW
QMI Agency Niagara

One of the most popular female politicians in Canadian history brought her wit and wisdom to Niagara Falls last Friday.

Hazel McCallion, who earned the nickname "Hurricane Hazel" as mayor of Mississauga for 36 years (1978 to 2014), urged Canada's women to stop their in-fighting and recognize they are the country's future leaders.

"Brain power" from China and India will be Canada's biggest competition soon, she told a crowd at the Americana Conference Resort & Spa.

"If you concentrate on brain power, then women come to the top."

To get there, however, women need to realize they're their own worst stumbling block.

"Let me tell you something, women are gossipers," she said bluntly. "Have you ever heard a man say, 'You know what? His tie doesn't match his shirt?'"

"Women complain bitterly about mistakes women make," she added. "We have to get over that before women can progress."

McCallion was the keynote speaker for the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce's annual International Women's Day celebration. Organized by Women in Niagara, the luncheon also recognized local arts supporter Marilyn I. Walker.

Sporting a bright red jacket, the 94-year-old McCallion bounded on stage and quickly launched into her life story, which included a stint playing women's professional hockey during the '40s. She's still a vocal supporter of

women's hockey, drawing cheers Friday when she asked "You know who plays hockey the way it should be played? The girls."

A few months after becoming Mississauga's mayor, a train carrying toxic chemicals derailed in a congested area of the city. McCallion earned national attention for her efforts in evacuating 230,000 residents. The key, she said, was "we communicated with them honestly."

She was barely challenged as mayor over the next 35 years before retiring from office last year. She was recently named a special advisor on strategic development to the University of Toronto's Mississauga campus.

Barely looking at her notes, McCallion earned plenty of laughs and applause during her speech. Keying in on Women's Day, she said the "most satisfying" part of being mayor was inspiring young women to get involved in politics.

More women in leadership roles only makes sense, she stressed.

"Who runs the budget of most homes across the country? It's no different than a city."

McCallion recalled "cows and horses" grazing outside city hall her first day as mayor. Over the next three decades, she transformed the city into one of the fastest-growing regions in North America and the Canadian home of major corporations such as Wells Fargo, Hewlett-Packard and Microsoft. The city's population went from 315,035 in 1981 to 713,443 by 2011.

McCallion's brash, often blunt approach made enemies, but as she noted, "men have been my greatest supporters."

Had she listened to all her critics, "we would have never built the city (that) we have."

She ended her 30-minute talk like she was on stage at Yuk Yuk's, sharing jokes about marriage, men making coffee, and the Toronto Maple Leafs.

She also shared one of her unlikely inspirations.

"Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's ark," she said. "Don't miss the boat."

"The ark was built by amateurs. The Titanic was built by professionals."

Ruth Unrau, chair of the Women in Niagara council, said McCallion has been near the top of her wish list for Women's Day speakers.

"You can't sit around a Women in Niagara council table and talk about who inspires you as a woman without Hazel McCallion's name coming up."

john.law@summedia.ca

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LOCAL NEWS

IN BRIEF

Nominations open for environment awards

Niagara Region is looking for nominations for its 2015 environmental awards.

The awards recognize contributions towards maintaining and restoring environmental quality as well educating the public about environmental issues.

Seven categories are judged including youth awards and a lifetime achievement award.

Nominations can be submitted at www.niagararegion.ca or by contacting Katelyn Vaughan at 905-980-6000, ext. 3544. They must be submitted before April 8.

Awards will be handed out in June.

Alleged sex crimes date back to 1970s

A Fenwick man has been charged with a number of historical sex offences police say date back to the 1970s.

In 2012, Niagara Regional Police laid a number of sex-related charges against William (Red) Child after complaints that young boys had been abused in Fenwick in the 1980s.

In December police reopened their investigation after a number of new alleged victims complained of abuse they suffered in the 1970s.

On Thursday, Child was charged with 14 new historical sex-related offences, including seven counts of indecent assault on a child and seven counts of gross indecency.

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QMI AGENCY FILE PHOTO

Ann, right, and Nancy Wilson of Heart make a return trip to the Niagara Fallsview Casino in June.

Heart, Boston head to casino in June

QMI Agency Niagara

Classic rock will rule Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort's Avalon Ballroom this June.

Boston, John Kay & Steppenwolf, and recent Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees Heart will all perform at the 1,500-seat theatre.

The month will also see visits by Richard Marx, Spirit of the Dance and Steven Seagal & Susanna Kwan.

Heart will do two shows, June 25 and 26. Tickets start at \$50.

Boston will perform June 3 and 4, with

tickets starting at \$40, followed by John Kay & Steppenwolf June 5 and 6, with tickets starting at \$35.

Richard Marx performs June 27 (starting at \$25), while Spirit of the Dance will have an extended run June 12 to 21, with tickets starting at \$25.

Tickets start at \$65 for Ma and Kwan, performing June 7 and 8. Tickets for all June shows go on sale noon Friday at the Fallsview box office and all Ticketmaster outlets. Phone 1-877-833-1130 or visit www.ticketmaster.ca.

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**MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
NOTICE OF STUDY COMPLETION
STORM SEWER SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS STUDY**



The Study

The City of Port Colborne has completed a Storm Sewer System Infrastructure Needs Study. This master plan followed Phases 1 and 2 of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) process to develop Capital and Financial Plans, updating the previous study completed in 1978.

The Process

The study was completed following Phases 1 and 2 Class EA document.

The Storm Sewer System Infrastructure Needs Study - Project File Report, documenting the planning process, the recommended capital plan and other recommendations, has been completed and is now available for a 30-day public review period. If an interested party has outstanding environmental concerns about the Project, please raise these with one of the individuals listed below. Thereafter, the Project File Report will be reviewed and revised taking into consideration the comments which are received from the public and presented to City Council for final approval.

The Project File Report may be viewed at the following locations:

Clerk's Office
City of Port Colborne
66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8
Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Port Colborne Public Library
310 King Street
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 4H1
Hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Wed, Fri & Sat 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Please provide written comment to the City Clerk within 30 calendar days from the date of this Notice.

Individual capital projects, as defined in the report, will continue to be planned in accordance with the Class EA process depending on the Schedule under which the individual project falls. At that time, additional public input will be solicited.

With the exception of personal information, all comments will be part of the public record. For further information, please contact one of the individuals identified below:

Mr. Rick Gabel
Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Associated Engineering (Ont.) Ltd.
110A Hannover Drive, Suite 208
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A4
Phone: 905-346-0990 Ext. 296
Fax: 905-346-0992
Email: gabelr@ae.ca

Mr. Jim Huppunen, A. Sc. T.
Manager of Engineering Services
City of Port Colborne
66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8
Phone: 905-835-2900, Ext. 221
Fax: 905-835-2939
Email: jimhuppunen@portcolborne.ca

Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Environmental Assessment Act, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this matter and may be released, if requested, to any person.

This Notice issued March 9, 2015.

LOCAL

HISTORY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

With the finishing touches being applied, the statue of Gen. Sir Isaac Brock is expected to be delivered to Brock University next week.

General Brock advances on Niagara

QMI Agency Niagara

General Sir Isaac Brock will be coming home to St. Catharines.

For now, Brock — or rather, his likeness — calls a foundry in Joseph, Ore. home. That's where the final coatings of protectant are being applied to the bronze sculpture that was created by renowned Canadian artist Danek Mozdzenski.

The sculpture was fully unwritten by a gift of more than \$1 million from the late David S. Hovew, a former chair of Brock University's board of trustees and long-

time supporter of the school.

The sculpture will be wrapped and carefully loaded into a shipping cradle on a flatbed truck for the 4,000-kilometre trip across the United States into Canada.

Scheduled to arrive in Niagara the week of March 16, the sculpture will be installed in front of Schmon Tower at Brock.

More exact dates and times will be announced at a later date, largely depending on weather and road conditions. Updates on the sculpture's trek home will be updated on the Brock University website.

LOCAL

■ NIAGARA PENINSULA HAWKWATCH

Birders fix eyes to the skies

ROB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

This count is for the birds. The 41st annual Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch is underway at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area in Grimsby and will continue every day until May 15.

NPFA director of special projects Bruce Mackenzie said this year his group of 60 or so birdwatchers expects to count upwards of 14,000 raptors, including hawks, eagles, falcons, vultures and ospreys.

He said Beamer is an ideal location to cast eyes to the sky because the raptors do not fly over large bodies of water, preferring to save energy by gliding from thermal current to thermal current above land masses.

"They follow the shorelines," Mackenzie said. "Beamer... is one of the focal points of their migration. The birds get funnelled into a very narrow flight path."

That narrow flight path, combined with the fact the hawks fly only during the day, means birders at Beamer can get the most accurate count of raptors headed north.

Beamer was discovered in the middle-1970s as the best point along the Niagara Peninsula to observe these birds," Mackenzie said, noting the narrowest point in the peninsula between Lake Ontario and the Niagara Escarpment is in Grimsby.

Data collected during hawkwatch is forwarded to the Hawk Migration Association of North America.

"That association tabulates

ON THE WEB

For more information on Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch, go to: www.niagarapeninsula-hawkwatch.org

all of the data from the different hawkwatches across North America so that a continent-wide picture can be developed for hawk populations and changes to them," Mackenzie said.

Mackenzie said Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch has counted more than 500,000 raptors over 40 years.

He said members of the public are encouraged to come out and learn from experienced hawkwatchers.

"Because we're close to urban centres, this is an excellent opportunity for people to come, not only to observe, but for people to come out and learn from the counters who are there," Mackenzie said.

He said hawkwatchers will be more than pleased to share insight on identification of the birds and their ecology.

Mackenzie said "99.8%" of the birds will just be passing through the area, some on a journey from the southern U.S. to the Arctic, where they will pair up, mate and raise young before heading south again in the fall.

Mackenzie said peak migration through Beamer is expected the first three weeks of April.

rob.houle@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: RobH_Sunday

MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NOTICE OF STUDY COMPLETION WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS STUDY



The Study

The City of Port Colborne has completed a Water Distribution System Infrastructure Needs Study. This master plan followed the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) process to develop Capital and Financial Plans, updating the previous study completed in 1996.

The Process

The study was completed following Phases 1 and 2 of the Class EA document.

The Water Distribution System Infrastructure Needs Study - Project File Report, documenting the planning process, the recommended capital plan and other recommendations, has been completed and is now available for a 30-day public review period. If an interested party has outstanding environmental concerns about the Project, please raise these with one of the individuals listed below. Thereafter, the Project File Report will be reviewed and revised taking into consideration the comments which are received from the public and then presented to City council for final approval.

The Project File Report may be viewed at the following locations:

Clerk's Office
City of Port Colborne
66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Wed, Fri & Sat 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Please provide written comment to the City Clerk within 30 calendar days from the date of this Notice.

Approvals for watermain replacements and/or modifications, as well as most new mains set out in the capital plan will fall under the City's Drinking Water Works Permit (DWWP) and as such are pre-authorized.

With the exception of personal information, all comments will be part of the public record. For further information, please contact one of the individuals identified below:

Mr. Rick Gabel
Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Associated Engineering (Ont.) Ltd.
110A Hannover Drive, Suite 208
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A4
Phone: 905-346-0990 Ext. 296
Fax: 905-346-0992
Email: gabelr@ae.ca

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Fax: 905-835-2939
Email: jimhuppunen@portcolborne.ca

Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Environmental Assessment Act, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this matter and may be released, if requested, to any person.

This Notice issued March 9, 2015.

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Contest Rules:

Only original newspaper ballots accepted. No mechanical reproductions allowed. Employees of the InPort News, and their immediate families are not eligible. Winners of the Gift Card will be determined by a random draw from all entries received by 4 p.m. Friday, March 13, 2015. Winners will be contacted by phone. You do not have to fully complete ballot to win.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **ENTERTAINMENT:** Reuben Jarvis has been bitten by the acting bug

Niagara wrestler on Murdoch Mysteries

JERRY JELEN
QMI Agency Niagara

When Reuben Jarvis was in Grade 1, his teacher asked him to look after the class while she stepped out. The youngster saw the chance to put on a show, and didn't waste any time.

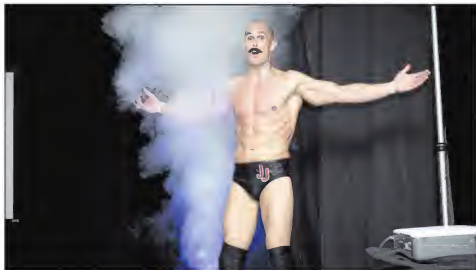
Within seconds of her leaving the room, Jarvis was standing up, surfing on a rocking chair. His classmates were in hysterics over his antics.

Ever since then, he knew he wanted to be in the limelight.

"You're either someone who likes entertaining or not," Jarvis said. "I love it, absolutely."

Now, he enjoys taking to the stage — or ring — as a wrestler. Since taking up the sport three years ago, "The Professional" Jaxon Jarvis has found his niche as a personified character wrestler. Part sport, part show, wrestling has taught the Thorold resident how to put on a show. Thanks to his regular work in the ring, Jarvis has found himself another gig.

Last fall while fighting in a Victory Commonwealth show in Toronto, Jarvis caught the eye of executive TV producer Peter Mitchell. Mitchell liked what he saw, and offered



Jaxon Jarvis.

Jarvis an audition.

Now, Jarvis is anxiously looking forward to seeing himself in a leading role in an episode of CBC's *Murdoch Mysteries*.

"I'm bursting with anticipation for this episode to come out," Jarvis said.

The character he plays on the 1890s murder mystery show is much like the character he brings to the ring on a regular basis: cocky, arrogant and full of himself.

"I had a blast getting into character," Jarvis said.

While he was famil-

iar with the role, the first-time actor said it helped ease his nerves to recognize some familiar faces on the set. The fighting roles were shared between other wrestlers Jarvis regularly performs with, including regular opponents and his

former tag-team partner.

While he knows what it takes to get in front of a live audience, Jarvis said he's never had to perform for cameras on a TV show set.

"The filming process was fantastic," he said. Watching the crews work seamlessly

behind the scenes and piecing together each intricate detail was an experience like no other, he said.

To get ready for his biggest performance to date, Jarvis said he made some minor adjustments to his usual pre-show routine. It involved lots more running, a little less pizza and far more attention to his signature handlebar moustache.

Jarvis said he is hoping to do more work in TV.

"I've definitely been bitten by the acting bug," he said.

Even if he does land more work on camera, Jarvis said wrestling would come first.

"It's my No. 1 love," he said.

"I love entertaining people."

Working with other performers, presenters and fans make it so special for Jarvis.

"It's a really unique industry," he said. "It's something I'm proud to be part of."

Murdoch Mysteries airs

Monday nights at 8 on CBC. Tune in March 16 to see Jarvis.

"My parents can't wait to see it," he said. "I hope my family and friends get to see it, and our proud of my performance."

Follow Jarvis on Twitter and Instagram at @jaxonjarvis and on Facebook at Jaxon Jarvis.

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